

REMARKS:

Claims 1-19 were pending in this application. Claims 1-13 have been cancelled. Therefore, claims 14-19 are now pending in this application.

In the Office Action, claims 1-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over European Patent Application 0199965 to Herd (hereinafter “Herd”) in view of Seward, Densification of Synthetic fused Silica under Ultraviolet irradiation (hereinafter “Seward”). Applicant respectfully disagrees with these rejections.

However, in order to expedite issuance of the present application with the claims that have been identified as allowable (claims 14-19), Applicant has cancelled claims 1-13 in the present application.

Applicant hereby reserves the right to file the cancelled claims in a Continuation Application at any time before the issuance of the present application.

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner’s assertion that “Herd discloses a photopolymer which contains 70 to 80% of silicon dioxide, and therefore reads on the present claims which require silicon dioxide.” Applicant notes that Herd discloses a “silicic acid” which “can be formed with 70% to 80% silicon dioxide” (see Herd, column 5, lines 10-14). Applicant asserts that silicic acid is not silicon dioxide as claimed in the present application and will present arguments to such an assertion in any Continuation Application filed henceforth.

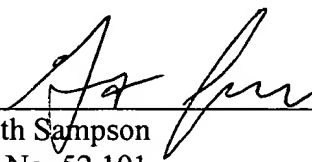
CONCLUSION:

Applicants submit the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505/5957-07300/GMS.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 13, 2007

By: 
Gareth Sampson
Reg. No. 52,191

Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel, P.C.
P. O. Box 398
Austin, Texas 78767
(512) 853-8847